

“perfection?” Most people are quick to jump on this word “perfection” and state with authority: “No one is perfect!” What they mean is no one is flawless and without sin. However, since the Bible said we must be perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect (Matthew 5:48), perfection must be possible.

The perfection in these texts is not flawlessness but maturity. The word perfect is from the Greek word: *telios*, which means “full grown, mature.” This is what Christians are “pressing” towards. We have not yet achieved full maturity, but we are striving for it daily.

We study our Bibles daily so that we can better handle it aright (2 Timothy 2:15).

We practice self-control that we are no longer slaves of sin (Romans 6:1-7).

We buffet our bodies daily lest after we have preached to others, we will not be cast away (Hebrews 9:27).

We work at remembering to put others ahead of ourselves, because we seem to instinctively look out for our own selfish interests more than the needs of others (Philippians 2:3-4).

We husbands love our wives as Christ also loved the church, because it is so much easier to selfishly love ourselves (Ephesians 5:25-30).

Wives consciously submit to their husbands as to the Lord, because in the world women are trained to “throw off the shackles of patriarchal society” (Ephesians 5:22).

None of these spiritual goals are easy to achieve, but they are the goals we are striving towards when we press on to perfection. What is it that you lack? Where is your weakness? Are you busily pursuing perfection in these areas?



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Let Us Go On To Perfection

David Weaks

Paul said: “*Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment...*” (Hebrews 6:1-2).

What was it that Paul was telling us exactly? Was he saying that the doctrines of repentance and baptism are unimportant now? Did he mean for us to never study the subject of the resurrection of the dead ever again? The answer to these questions is

obviously: “No.” There is never a time when these topics will be unnecessary.

Then what was Paul’s point? His point was that we are to grow beyond the basics. When we are “newborn babes” we “*desire the pure milk of the word*” that we may grow thereby (1 Peter 2:2). But, as our spirit and mind grows stronger we should eventually develop an appetite for meatier doctrines. We stagnate spiritually when we do not grow constitutionally to need and desire stronger meat. Hence, God consistently teaches us to grow (2 Peter 1:5-11; 3:18).

Now we must ask: What is

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How Badly Do You Want Heaven?

David Weaks

“What do you mean, ‘How badly do I want, heaven?’ I am a Christian. What kind of a question is that for me?” I am serious here. This is an increasingly legitimate question to ask of all Christians. There are so many worldly things that vie for our attention these days, and in the lives of many Christians the world is winning.

Distraction from the goal of heaven has always been a problem for Christians, but it is especially so today. Yet, the Bible tells us we should focus on heaven and leave everything other than the Lord behind in our affections.

John specifically warned us against loving the world or the things in the world (1 John 2:15-16). Paul said we should set our minds on things above, not on things on the earth (Colossians 3:1-2). Paul said that our citizenship is in heaven “from *which we eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus*

Christ” (Philippians 3:20). Although we were once dead in our trespasses and sins, we have been made alive with Christ, and we have been raised up together and made to sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:5-6). The hope of the gospel is the hope of heaven (Colossians 1:5).

There is laid up for all who have loved Jesus’ appearing a crown of righteousness in heaven (2 Timothy 4:8). We have been begotten again “*to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you*” 1 Peter 1:3-4).

Jesus Christ has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep (1 Corinthians 15:20). Like Him we shall be raised incorruptible, and we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ to

answer for the things done in the body whether good or bad (2 Corinthians 5:10). We Christians long to hear the Lord say on that day: “*Well done, good and faithful servant;...enter in to the joy of the Lord*” (Matthew 25:21, 23). If we live for Him, we shall also reign with Him (2 Timothy 2:12).

A place has been prepared for us in our Father’s house where there are many mansions (John 14:1-3). All men may go there if they live their lives faithfully for the Lord. All that one needs to do is come to the Father through the Lord Jesus Christ, the only way (John 14:6).

But, for all of these wonderful promises, many Christians seem obsessed with the things of the world. They think as much about the world’s pleasures as non-Christians do. Reading the Bible is not a daily activity to them, but matters pertaining to this life are watched, read, and digested in every form of media available.

Christians can be heard talking excitedly about the latest gizmos and toys of our marvelous modern age. They

talk enthusiastically about their favorite television programs, and they excitedly discuss their fanatical devotion to sporting teams. They wonder worriedly if their baseball or football teams will ever get it together and win a championship. They talk knowingly about coaching changes and possible draft picks. Yet, they think very little about the lost souls who live right next door to them.

Travel, vacations, retirement, health, exercise, dieting, and leisure, are all topics of interest whenever Christians get together, but the goal of heaven is not. When was the last time you were part of a conversation about how beautiful heaven must be - beyond the class where it was discussed at the church building, I mean?

Christians, like all people, wonder if they will find love in this life. But, when was the last time you thought about how important it is to inherit eternal life where marriage has no place (Matthew 22:30).

Yes, I think it is a very important question for all Christians: *How badly do you want to go to heaven?*